

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

PIF Resource Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to provide the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with the necessary data to be able to evaluate the significance of the property for possible listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This is not a formal nomination, but a necessary step in determining whether or not the property could be considered eligible for listing. Please take the time to fill in as many fields as possible. A greater number of completed fields will result in a more timely and accurate assessment. Staff assistance is available to answer any questions you have in regards to this form.

General Property Information	For Staff Use Only DHR ID #: 057-5089
Property Name(s): <u>Brighton, Brighton-Mobjack Farm, Hollerith Farm</u>	
Property Date(s): <u>1917</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Circa <input type="checkbox"/> Pre <input type="checkbox"/> Post Open to Public? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Limited XNo	
Property Address: <u>852 – 898 Brighton Lane</u> City: <u>Port Haywood, VA</u> Zip: <u>23138</u>	
County or Ind. City: <u>Mathews County</u> USGS Quad(s): <u>Mathews, Va</u> Bin# <u>EE-22-24-304</u>	

Physical Character of General Surroundings

Acreage: 28.36 Setting (choose one): ☐Urban ☐Town ☐Village ☐Suburban ☒Rural ☐Transportation Corridor

Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features: North-South peninsula at the mouth of the junction of Weston Creek and Tabbs Creek as they enter the East River. Marshy with deep water wharfs adjacent to the site; rural farmland surrounding the site.

B1 of DATA Investigations' delineation; archaeological report cited below. Tax map attached.

Secondary Resource Description (Briefly describe any other structures (or archaeological sites) that may contribute to the significance of the property: Multiple buildings make up the home site complex: Primary residence (Summer Home), Winter Home, two barns, three outbuilding storage sheds, pavilion, windmill, boathouse and dock. Several archaeological sites in the vicinity as identified by DATA Investigations including 44MT0111-114, 44MT0008, and 44MT-0112.

Ownership Category: ☒XPrivate ☐Public-Local ☐Public-State ☐Public-Federal

Individual Resource Information

What was the historical use of this resource? Examples include: Dwelling, Grist Mill, Bridge, Store, Tobacco Barn, etc...

Herman Hollerith built home(s) and outbuildings for his personal use

What is the current use? (if other than the historical use) Same; still in the family and still a seasonal "get-away"

Architectural style or elements of styles: American Foursquare

Architect, builder, or original owner: Herman Hollerith, original owner/builder through "an architect" (per Austrian book; original blueprints have no architect or engineer stamp; just a date stamp of 9.2.16)

of stories 2 Condition: ☒XExcellent ☐Good ☐Fair ☐Deteriorated ☐Poor ☐Ruins ☐Rebuilt ☐Renovated

Are there any known threats to this property? No; only age and erosion

Resource Component Information

Please answer the following questions regarding the individual components of the resource. If the component does not exist, answer “n/a.” If you feel uncomfortable in answering the question, please leave the space blank. Photographs of the features can also help our staff identify specific feature components. Usually, priority is given to describing features on the primary (front) facade of the structure.

Foundation: Describe the foundation that supports the structure. Examples include piers, continuous brick, poured concrete. Enclosed brick with 2/2 windows under the main houses; porches lie on open piers.

Structure: Describe the primary structural component of the resource. Include primary material used. Examples include log, frame (sawn lumber), and brick. Also include the treatment, such as a particular brick bond or type of framing, if known. Each structure is balloon frame with lapped siding (all of which appears to be original except for vinyl siding on the modern or newly- built garden shed).

Walls: Describe the exterior wall covering such as beaded weatherboard or asbestos shingles. Lapped siding, original (may include much poplar as many poplar trees existed on site prior to the building of the houses)

Windows: Describe the number, material, and form of the primary windows. This includes the number of panes per sash, what the sashes are made of, and how the sashes operate (are they hinged or do they slide vertically) Have the windows been replaced? Most of the windows are 6/6 double hung sash, original hardware, sash and shutters. In the end walls of the attics of each house, there are tilting split lunettes that function to ventilate the attic spaces.

Porch: Briefly describe the primary (front) porch. List the primary material, shape of the porch roof, and other defining details. There are full-length screened porches with shed roofs on both elevations of the Summer House and the south elevation of the Winter House. The rear of the Winter house has a half porch; one elevation of the detached maid’s house has a partial porch.

Roof: Describe the roof, listing the shape and the covering material. The roofs are shallow pitch (about 4:12); all have clipped gables with asphalt shingles.

Chimney(s): List the number of chimneys and the materials used. Include the brick bond pattern if possible. There are three chimneys on the Summer House; two are engaged end chimneys and the larger central chimney aligns with the rear/north wall of the house. The kitchen wing on the Summer House has a chimney as well. The American bond pattern on the end chimney of the Summer House varies from 7-8 courses to 20 courses of stretcher bricks to a course of headers. There are two interior end chimneys on the Winter House.

Architectural Description of Individual Resource: *(Please describe architectural patterns, types, features, additions, remodelings, or other alterations. A sketch of the current floor plan would be appreciated.)* **NOTE: Original blueprints stamped 9/2/16 enclosed.**

Background:

Hollerith, a resident of Georgetown, Washington, DC, had discovered that Mathews County was an ideal retreat, so he and his family summered there at Poplar Grove starting in 1895. But on August 13, 1909, he bought the existing farm, “Brighton” on the East River for \$15,000, according to the Gloucester-Mathews Gazette-Journal. Hollerith enjoyed the cultivation of numerous interests including potatoes, sheep, hogs and Guernsey cows. **(An extensive Site History was compiled by Martha W. McCartney for the EVAA Archaeological Report in November 1984. Excerpts included in DATA Investigations’ archaeological report on file with DHR.)**

The family spent its first summer at Brighton in a house that was already on the property. Soon, Hollerith registered his dislike of the orientation of the house toward the west; the noisy rustling of the poplar trees; the rain on the tin roof; and the “perennial plague of cicadas.” (page 317, Austrian.) So Hollerith demolished the existing house, and built a new house facing southwest down the East River with a grand view of the Mobjack Bay and taking advantage of the prevailing breezes. The blueprints for the Summer House dated September 2, 1916 have been submitted to DHR for inclusion in the archives file. (No architect nor engineer is indicated on the blueprints.)

The first house he built was a two-story heated and insulated four-bedroom structure. (The insulation has been described as a mixture of seaweed and boric acid, solidified in the walls, per the current owner, Richard Hollerith, Jr.) The second house to be built where the original house had been, was intended to be merely a summer home. Hollerith instructed the architect to double the Winter House. This created a house (today known as the “Summer House”) with eight upstairs bedrooms; however, the upstairs bedrooms were not connected by a hallway, so to access the other end of the upstairs, one had to

go downstairs and back up the other stairs. (page 319, Ibid.) Thus there were two suites of four bedrooms, two baths each. Very early (and according to the 1916 plans), a passage was cut through two rooms. Austrian goes on to describe the furnishings that went into the house and many of which remain intact today – furniture from John Wanamaker’s and linens from Marshall Field. (These two companies had been loyal users of Hollerith’s system.) Additionally he writes of the huge building program that Hollerith launched, including a dairy house, a shed for the gas lighting system, a machine shop, stables, a windmill, a pumphouse, boathouses, and piers are but a few of the buildings that went up immediately and many remain intact to this day. (page 318, ibid)

Summer House and Winter House:

The Winter House was built before the Summer House, according to photographs in possession of the owner. The main house, “The Summer House,” reflects the elevation of the Winter House but is double the size of the Winter House. Each house is two-stories with full basement and full length single-story screened porches running the length of each elevation (with the exception of the north elevation of the Winter House which has a half length screened porch). Each is essentially a three-bay elevation with a center stairway bay and paired 6/6 double hung windows flanking the stair bay. (The Summer House is double the size and plan of the Winter House.) Each end of the Summer House has engaged end chimneys flush with the siding and a single shoulder occurs between the two floors of the house. There is also a central chimney on the north wall of the Summer House, and there is a chimney on the kitchen wing. The Winter House has two interior end chimneys. The main Summer House has a single story kitchen wing while the Winter House has a detached single story building (“maid’s house”) in the back (to the North). Porches all lay on brick piers while the main houses have full enclosed basements with 6/6 windows. All windows, window hardware, shutters, shutter hardware and siding appear to be original.

Barns (also called Stables):

Two identical north-south oriented stables/barns (connected by an open shed with enclosed rooms on the ends) lie to the east of the Winter House. Each has five small 2/2 stable windows on their outside, five 6/6 windows on the inside. Each stable or barn building has a central cupola.

Outbuildings and other structures:

There are two sheds (“outbuildings”) on the west side of the green between the two houses. One (Shed 1) is restored; one (Shed 2) is historical – predating the main houses. On the east side of the green is a garden shed, a pumphouse, a windmill, and the water tank (for water collection by the windmill). A garage with workshop lies between the Winter House and the barn, while a detached building (“maid’s house”) lies to the north of the Winter House. There is a boathouse with two slips and 2/2 windows, dock, planters. A pavilion remains in near-ruinous state at the edge of the site while historic trees and a formal garden site remain on the property. The owner suggests that the pavilion was to shelter animals.

Viewshed and Environment:

In the viewshed, the houses are surrounded by views of the East River to Mobjack Bay and Tabb Creek, and immediately adjacent to the property are remains of the early wharfs that served Hollerith’s boats – as large as 85’ at one point. The farmlands and surrounding houses and properties have been divided up among other family members and numerous owners, so it is the significant (owned today by Richard Hollerith, Jr. grandson of Herman Hollerith, Sr.) houses and supporting outbuildings that are being proposed for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Significance Statement: Briefly note any significant events, personages, and/or families associated with the property. (Detailed family genealogies are not necessary.) Please list all sources of information. It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or genealogies to this form. Normally, only information contained on this form will be posted for consideration by the State Review Board.

Overview: It is suggested that Brighton may qualify for the National Register under the following criteria for the following reasons:

- **Criterion B:** Significance of Herman Hollerith, the inventor
- **Criterion C:** Significance of the intact complex of Winter and Summer House and numerous support buildings surrounding them, including the inventor's collections that have been preserved in the house and his inventions and technological adaptations found in the house still today.
- **Criterion D:** Significance for the archaeological probability ranging from numerous known historical sites to the probability for prehistoric sites as suggested by DATA Investigations, Thane Harpole and David Brown, who have completed work at the site.

Criterion B: Herman Hollerith, the inventor:

Herman Hollerith, Sr. revolutionized the tabulation of the United States Census with the invention of his electrical punch card tabulating machine system in 1890. Through the punch card system, many units of information could be processed, rearranged, and extracted, and it became known as "The Hollerith Card." By the turn of the twentieth century, his machines were used for censuses in England, Italy, Germany, Russia, Austria, Canada, France, Norway, Puerto Rico, Cuba, and the Philippines, and resulted in the founding of the Tabulating Machine Company to manage and service the many machines and contracts. His company merged with other companies and they were renamed International Business Machines or IBM. Hollerith also invented electrical railway car brakes. His highly creative and curious mind continued to work until his death in 1929, leaving his mark on the development of electricity, and finally at his "retirement" retreat in Mathews County, Virginia, where he finally raised Guernsey cows and water management systems that remain to this day on the site. Hollerith is a member of the Inventors Hall of Fame and was called "the Adam of modern data processing machines." (page 57, Austrian) He achieved many accolades that are delineated in his biography by Geoffrey D. Austrian, Herman Hollerith: Forgotten Giant of Information Processing, and is widely regarded as the father of modern automatic information processing.

Criterion C: Architecture:

The Summer home -- to which Herman Hollerith retreated from Washington, DC -- remains virtually intact from the day he completed each of the houses, barns, and outbuildings. They reflect the balloon frame, wood sided cottages with full length porches, sited to take advantage of the generous breezes from three sides. Not only do the square columns, evenly spaced windows, clipped gables, simple hardware, and historical plumbing fixtures enhance the American Foursquare balloon framed houses, but they also document the taste and technology of the period in which they were built. The houses have been expertly maintained over their lifetime, so they retain much original materials and design as well as the inventor's technology which developed over the family's ownership of the property. The houses were finally electrified in 1936. Supporting outbuildings range from the pump house to barns with stalls for horses and ample room for carriages. The windmill and accompanying water-gathering system and the underground drainage system remain intact, as do numerous museum-quality collections that reflect Hollerith's inventions and practical ingenuity. Hollerith's daughters developed the farms lands and, known for their botanical interests, they kept the gardens which consisted of formal garden, fruit trees and cutting and vegetable gardens.

Criterion D: Archaeology:

The following statement is taken directly from "An Archaeological Assessment of Hollerith Farm (Sites 44MT0008 and 44MT0111 to 114), Mathews County, Virginia, August 2009," by DATA Investigations, LLC.

Hollerith/Brighton Farm holds within its bounds a near-complete cross section of Mathews County history, from the earliest prehistoric occupants of the Archaic cultural period through the first settlers of the mid-seventeenth century and into the modern period. It was for

this reason that the Mathews County Historical Society (MCHS) employed Dr. Frank Farmer and his company, Eastern Virginia Archaeological Associates (EVAA), to conduct an archaeological survey of the property in 1984. Dr. Farmer died in 2007 without completing the final report on the survey and the MCHS contracted DATA Investigations LLC to curate the artifact assemblage and complete the report. The extensive survey undertaken by the EVAA and numerous volunteers resulted in the identification of five large, multi-component archaeological sites (44MT0008, and 44MT0111 to 44MT0114) that confirm the initial theory of the MCHS: Hollerith/Brighton Farm and its archaeological sites represent nearly every period of human occupation in Mathews County. The report discusses the purpose, methodology, and results of the 1984 survey, including the initial analysis of Dr. Farmer and subsequent analysis by DATA Investigations. Finally, recommendations are included at the conclusion of the report, including [their] determination that **the archaeological sites identified during the survey are potentially eligible for listing on the Virginia Historic Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D.** It is our hope that the Hollerith family and the MCHS will proceed with nominating this distinct and significant property to the state and federal registers.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Austrian, Geoffrey D. Herman Hollerith: Forgotten Giant of Information Processing. Columbia University Press, NY. 1982
- Becky Barnhart, conversation. September 9, 2013.
- Brown, David, conversation. September 13, 2013.
- DATA Investigations LLC. "An Archaeological Assessment of Hollerith Farm (Sites 44MT0008 and 44MT0111 to 114). Mathews County, Virginia. August, 2009.
- Hollerith, Richard and Rosemary. September 9, 2013.
- Lewis, Sara. "Brighton Lane in Mathews: Remembering Brighton Days." July 12, 2007.
- McCartney, Martha W. Historical Report for EVAA. November, 1984.
- McCartney, Martha W. conversation, September 13, 2013.

Legal Owner(s) of the Property (For more than one owner, please use a separate sheet.)Mr. ☒ Mrs. ☐ Dr. ☐Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Hon. ☐

Richard Hollerith

(Name)

4704 Dovedale Drive

Williamsburg

VA

23188

(Address)

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

RHoller756@gmail.com

757-221-0208

(Email Address)

(Daytime telephone including area code)

Owner's Signature: _____

Date: _____

• • Signature required for processing all applications. • •

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: _____

Daytime Telephone: ()

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Dr. ☐Miss ☐ Ms. X ☐ Hon. ☐

Camille Agricola Bowman

(Name)

193 Beechmont Drive

Newport News

VA

23608

(Address)

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

Camille.bowman@cox.net

757-234-0453

(Email Address)

(Daytime telephone including area code)

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Notification

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for DHR to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator or City Manager.

Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Dr. ☐Miss ☐ Ms. X ☐ Hon. ☐

Melinda Moran

County Administrator

(Name)

(Position)

Mathews County
Administration

50 Brickbat Road

(Locality)

(Address)

Mathews

VA

23109

804-725-7172

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

(Daytime telephone including area code)

Please use the following space to explain why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.

Recognition through the National Register of Historic Places

Would you be interested in the State and/or the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes ☒ No ☐Would you be interested in the easement program? Yes ☒ No ☐